

STATE OF NEBRASKA

DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

L. Tim Wagner

Director



Dave Heineman
Governor

NEWS RELEASE

NR-0705

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

February 13, 2007

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Jina Ragland, NE Department of Insurance
(402) 471-4506

February is American Heart Month

February is American Heart Month, and the Nebraska Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) is encouraging Nebraska's Medicare beneficiaries to take advantage of cardiovascular screening blood tests offered by Medicare.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death for men and women in the United States. Found more often among people aged 65 or older, heart disease is largely preventable.

"Medicare covers certain cardiovascular blood tests that can detect abnormalities associated with an increased risk of heart disease and stroke," said Jina Ragland, Director of the Nebraska SHIIP.

Medicare coverage is provided for total cholesterol tests, cholesterol tests for high-density lipoproteins, and triglyceride tests. Medicare covers these tests once every five years for beneficiaries who exhibit no apparent signs or symptoms of the disease.

Coverage of cardiovascular screening blood tests is provided as a Medicare Part B benefit. Beneficiaries enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan may also receive this benefit. There is no coinsurance or co-payment and no deductible to be met for this benefit.

For more information on cardiovascular screening blood tests, or any of Medicare's other preventive benefits, contact SHIIP at 1-800-234-7119 or Medicare at 1-800-633-4227 or visit www.doi.ne.gov/shiip on the web.